

# THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR



MCPOON arrives





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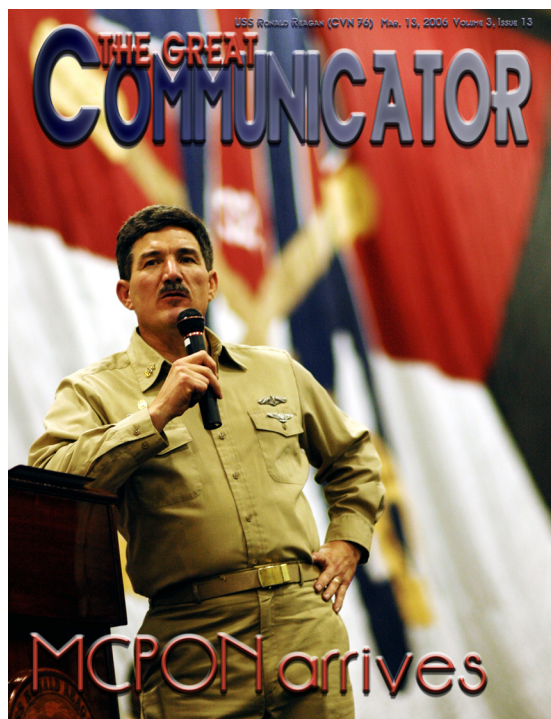
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## Goodbye for now

Boatswain's Mates and deck seamen aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) bid a farewell to USNS Rainier (T-AOE 7) following a replenishment at sea (RAS) Mar. 11. Reagan is currently deployed as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region. Photo by PHAN (AW) Christine Singh.

## On the front cover



**Cover photo by**  
PH3 (AW)  
Aaron Burden  
*Sharing his thoughts,*  
Master Chief Petty  
Officer of the Navy  
(MCPON) Terry  
Scott addresses the  
crew of USS Ronald  
Reagan (CVN 76)  
and Carrier Air Wing  
One Four (CVW-14)  
in the hangar bay  
aboard the ship.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

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# Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visits Reagan

By PH3 Chris Blachly

Staff Writer

As the day's work drew to a close, Sailors began to file into the hangar bay of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) March 12. Once the crowd grew larger, the Sailors organized themselves into ranks and files, slowly filling the hangar. Small groups of Sailors, leaning toward one another began to talk quietly amongst themselves, creating a dim roar that rose above the audience. The crowd was called to attention, and the talking stopped.

Every eye was on the stage set before them, waiting. Captain Terry Kraft, Reagan's commanding officer, welcomed the officers and crew of the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, and introduced the speaker they had all gathered to hear, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Terry Scott.

As he began his address to Reagan's crew, the Navy's focus on training its Sailors for the future was a high priority. "The Navy is changing," said Scott, "and individual Sailors need to

learn to react to different environments and situations around the globe. We need to focus on creating positive views of America by our example. The Navy's mission today is more about building ships than sinking them, working with other countries and teaching them how to protect and provide for themselves."

Once the floor was opened up for questions, Scott discussed topics ranging from the Navy's new uniforms and advancement, to the Navy's studies on Crew swaps, and even some

of the ratings mergers being looked at by analysts. Throughout the entire event however, one theme remained constant. One topic was in nearly every answer that the MCPON gave, the importance of readiness, and what it can do not only for the Navy as a whole, but for the individual as well.

"The most important thing MCPON talked about today was building Sailors for the future," explained Senior Chief Torpedoman's Mate (SW/AW) Bruce

MCPON... Cont. on page 4

## Air Traffic Controllers keep pilots in the sky

By PHAN (AW) Christine Singh

Staff Writer



"Fist 417, mark your father."

Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Danielle Smith scans the scopes for the position of the F/A-18C Hornet she guides into landing position from the cool confines of the Carrier Air Traffic Control Center (CATCC) aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

"'Mark your father' basically indicates our need to find out the pilot's position," said Smith. "They find their position in relation to Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) and then we match up their position on our scope before guiding them into position to recover them."

According to Smith, CATCC oversees multiple cycles of aircraft launch and recovery every day.

"It's roughly about 70 launches and recoveries a day," said Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Steve Evans. "Some days, we have more than that."

CATCC's mission is not only to safely launch and guide the pilots of Carrier Air Wing one four (CVW-14), but also to closely monitor factors that prevent mishaps.

"Our primary mission is to provide positive control of all aircraft departing and landing," said Smith, who has been launching and recovering aircraft for the last four and a half years. "We also monitor the fuel states and maintain separation between the aircraft by restricting their altitude and distance from each other."

Most of the procedures Reagan's air traffic controllers use are fairly standard, but there are some difference that comes from handling aircraft in the 5th Fleet area of operations.

"Though we don't really have anything to do with the missions the aircraft carry out, we are responsible for making sure the pilots are clear of Iranian airspace, which could result in an international incident if it were to occur," said Smith.

It's apparent to some just how necessary the air

PHAN (AW) Christine Singh  
Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Danielle Smith mans a console in the Carrier Air Traffic Control Center (CATCC) aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during flight operations.

CATCC ... Cont. on page 4

# InsiderdotCom

## Auto zone

[www.autopedia.com](http://www.autopedia.com)

Autopedia.com is a comprehensive internet source for any and all automotive-related information. Consumers can find information related to autos, boats, trucks, minivans, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, sport utility vehicles and the lemon law. There is a hotlinks category where you will find links to anything and everything automotive. This site lets you check out enthusiasts and clubs, dealers, financing, rebates and incentives, auto manufacturers, insurance check-up and a lot more. If you're looking to buy, sell or trade a vehicle, this is a great place to start.

## Automotive advice

[www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com)

This site's mission is to be America's most influential and authoritative source and intermediary of automotive information. The site informs and entertains consumers. It strives to give the customer the benefit of vehicular knowledge, insight into the automotive industry, experience of owning and driving vehicles and lessons about owning, buying and selling automobiles. Edmunds.com exists for the consumer, and writes to that audience. The site provides true market value pricing, unbiased car reviews, ratings and expert advice to help you get a fair deal.

## This Day in History

### 1938 CBS launches "European Roundup"

Under news director Edward R. Murrow, CBS launches European Roundup, a radio show linking field correspondents in Europe with New York-based newsman Bob Trout, one of the first anchormen in the news business.

### 1958 "Long Hot Summer" premieres

The Long Hot Summer, starring Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, and Orson Welles, opens in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Newman won the Cannes Film Festival award as Best Actor for his performance in the film.

## CATCC

*Continued from page 3*

traffic controller rate is aboard a carrier.

"I think it's one of the most important aviation rates on any ship," said Airman Jesus-Manuel Oterino, a striker from V-2. "It's amazing how we guide the pilots and that we're enlisted people instructing pilots what to do."

Air traffic controllers do this in a variety of ways.

"Basically, once we pinpoint their location on the scope, we give them vectors -- or turns that tell them precisely how to get back to the ship from where they are in relation to TACAN," said Evans. "Then, once we've guided them in the right direction, we start descending them to the landing area."

According to Smith, without the assistance of air traffic controllers, pilots would never be able to complete their missions.

"If we weren't here to launch and recover them safely, the missions would never be carried out," said Smith.

It's a big responsibility, but air traffic controllers handle it well.

"We have a lot of fun up here," said Smith, "But when aircraft go airborne, we quit joking around. That's when it's time to get serious."

## MCPON

*Continued from page 3*

Smith. "He said that anyone can be anything they want to be. Everyone has a chance in today's Navy."

It is clear that the MCPON believes what he says about the importance of the Navy's junior personnel, that training them to be leaders will keep the Navy constantly ready to face any challenge long into the future.

"He made everyone feel like they had a purpose coming out here," said Boatswain's Mate Second Class (SW) Darrin Davis, as Scott and his entourage left the hangar bay, "he really gave us a sense of pride."

## WANTED CAPTIONS



Calling all comedians! So you think you're pretty funny, huh? Come up with an amusing, appropriate caption for this photo and send it to [sennsd@cvm76.navy.mil](mailto:sennsd@cvm76.navy.mil) with "Caption Contest" in the subject line. The winning caption will be posted in the next issue.

### LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

#### FIRST

What?! They lied to me! There's no map of buried treasure under here!

MM3 Ian Kocan  
Eng/A

#### SECOND

I wish this was my recruiter's face.

MM3 Christopher Barton  
Eng/A



#### THIRD

No Submissions





## USS Ardent Assists Stranded Iraqi-Owned Vessel

*From U.S. Naval Forces  
Central Command  
Public Affairs*

**USS ARDENT (NNS)** -- While conducting maritime security operations (MSO) in the Persian Gulf March 6, USS Ardent (MCM 12) responded to a distress call by an Iraqi-owned commercial vessel.

The Avenger-class mine countermeasures ship deployed two rescue and assistance (RNA) teams, which performed a security sweep of the crippled ship and conducted an assessment of its electrical and engineering conditions as well as the welfare of the crew.

## Marines, Sailors Establish Community Ties During Balikatan 2006

*By JO1 Scott Comstock,  
Naval Reserve Fleet Public  
Affairs Center Northwest*  
**MAGALANG,**

**Philippines (NNS)** -- Sailors and Marines visited children at The Haven Women's Shelter in Magalang, Philippines, March 5.

The Sailors and

Marines, part of a combined American team of Air Force, Marines and Navy personnel participating in Exercise Balikatan 2006, established ties with local people through community relations.

## NJROTC Visits USS Bunker Hill

*By JOSN Robert C. Long,  
Fleet Public Affairs  
Center, Pacific*

**SAN DIEGO (NNS)** -- Sailors from USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) guided 30 Junior Navy ROTC students from Churchill High School in Fallon, Nev., through a detailed tour of the guided-missile cruiser March 7.

The main goal of the tour was to show the students what they could achieve in the military, but Bunker Hill Sailors benefited from the tour, as well.

## Navy-Coast Guard National Fleet Policy Updated

*By Gordon I. Peterson,  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Public Affairs*

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen and Commandant of the Coast Guard Adm. Thomas H. Collins jointly approved a new National

Fleet policy statement in early March aimed at strengthening Navy-Coast Guard cooperation and tailored operational integration of each service's multimission platforms, infrastructure and personnel.

Building on more than two centuries of close collaboration and joint operations in peace and war, this firm commitment to shared purpose directly supports the new National Strategy for Maritime Security approved by President Bush this past September.

## EODTEU 2 Trains for Field Operations

*By PHAN David B.  
Danals, Fleet Public  
Affairs Center Atlantic*

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS)** -- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit (EODTEU) 2 conducted tactical combat casualty care (TCCC) training March 6 for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Group 2, at Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Va.

EODTEU 2 is the primary element that prepares Navy EOD personnel and detachments for deployment by the Atlantic Fleet, Mine

Warfare Command, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Naval Forces Central Command.

## Squadron Homecoming Marks End of Era for Tomcats

*By JO1 Stefanie Holzeisen-  
Mullen, Fleet Public  
Affairs Center Atlantic*

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS)** -- The "Tomcatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VF) 31 and the "Black Lions" of VF-213 arrived at Naval Air Station Oceana March 10, ending their six-month deployment with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8 embarked on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), and closing the book on the Tomcat as an asset in the Navy's war fighting arsenal.

VF-31 and 213's "fly-off" marked the last operational flight of the F-14D Tomcat and the beginning of the squadrons' transition to the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. VF-213 pilots will begin F/A-18F training in April and VF-31 pilots, who are transitioning to the F/A-18E, will remain operational until September when they will fly the last Tomcat in the Navy's inventory from Oceana.

## Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26 Welcomes Home Detachment

*By PHAN Cassandra  
Newell, Fleet Public  
Affairs Center Atlantic*  
**NORFOLK, Va.**

**(NNS)** -- Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 26 "Chargers," friends and family members gathered March 8 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to welcome home Sailors from HSC 26, Det. 4.

Det. 4 completed a six-month deployment with USS Theodore Roosevelt (TR) (CVN 71) Carrier Strike Group.

## NIOC Sugar Grove to Receive Award for Natural Resources Conservation

*By CTRC (SW) Michael  
W. Judy, Navy Information  
Operations Command,  
Sugar Grove  
Public Affairs*

**SUGAR GROVE, W. Va. (NNS)** -- Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Sugar Grove was selected, Feb. 28, as the Navy winner of the Secretary of the Navy's Environmental Awards program for Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installations for 2005.



# READER'S CHOICE

What are you  
doing during  
liberty in Dubai?



ABH3 Amber Allen

"Get off the ship and relax."



AWC (NAC/AW) Matt Shicks

"I'm not going to Dubai."



Lt. Cmdr. Drew Andrews

"Golf."



A03 Phillip Welch

"Call the wife."

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor.

I just wanted to thank the staff of Hellcat productions up in SITE tv for all thier great product releases lately. Reagan Idol is already a hit with the crew. I've seen every episode, and I was on the mess decks last night to watch the taping of the next one. It's a great concept, and no other ship has done it before, which makes it even cooler. I see the videographers running around all over the ship all the time. The commercials they produce for Captain's Call are pretty awesome as well. Those guys are doing a great job, and I just thought they should get some kudos for being so good at all the "behind the scenes" stuff that no one ever sees or really appreciates. Good job guys!

An avid watcher

Dear Avid,

I'm sure they appreciate the recognition. Hey crew -- yeah, I mean you. Write me a letter. Questions, comments, concerns or complaints, I'll take them all.

The Editor

## Today's Movies

No movies due to Dubai port brief being held on S9TE TV on channels 2 - 5

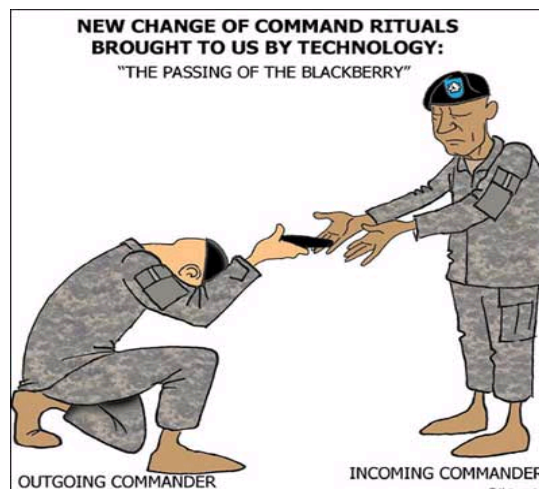
## Tomorrow's Movies

No movies due to Dubai port brief being held on S9TE TV on channels 2 - 5

Sempertoons by Charles Wolf



Private Murphy by Mark Baker



## Just for Laughs

Comics provided by  
Military.com

Ricky's Tour by Mike Jones





## Officer returns following assignment in Baghdad

USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs

Release

As aircraft continue to launch from the flightdeck of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, additional support for current operations is being found in some unusual places. Some members of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group are actually operating on the ground in Iraq.

Lt. Cmdr. Fitzhugh Lee, who is assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron Two Two (VFA-22) and served as the Carrier Air Wing Fourteen (CVW-14) Liaison Officer to the Air Support Operations Center (ASOC) for Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-1), has returned to Reagan following more than two weeks on the ground in Iraq.

As the Reagan Carrier Strike Group's subject matter expert, Lee helped to facilitate operations in the Iraqi theater of operations with MNC-1.

"While working at the ASOC, I would help coordinate close air support missions and attend meetings that were relevant to our operations," said Lee.

"I was in Camp Victory, located just northwest of Baghdad International [airport]," said Lee. "Though the security of Camp Victory is good, it is still close enough to the bad guys that we took indirect fire just about every day I was there."

Lee said that Camp Victory is not located in the so-called "Green Zone" that includes the U.S. embassy in Iraq. This fact helped emphasize the ongoing missions in Iraq and stress the need for the air support being provided by aircraft from the Reagan Carrier Strike Group.

"It was very rewarding work. It was great to work with so many outstanding individuals from other services," said Lee. "As it turns out, we do not have the corner on the market of outstanding American patriots – that's a good thing."

## Around the Mizzen Mast

DM1 (SW/AW) Michael "Zuills" Obney



**Department:** Combat Systems  
**Job Title:** SSDS Tech  
**Where are you from?** Effingham, Ill.  
**What inspires you?** My wife  
**Why did you join the Navy?** Travel  
**Who is responsible for your success?** My wife  
**What piece of advice would you pass on to others?** Give credit where credit is due



FC3 Aaron Fritcher

March 10, 2006



GM2 (SW/AW)  
Joseph Hutchinson

March 11, 2006

**Department:** Weapons  
**Job Title:** Assistant WCS  
**Where are you from?** West Monroe, La.  
**What inspires you?** Home  
**Why did you join the Navy?** Family tradition  
**Who is responsible for your success?** God and hard work  
**What piece of advice would you pass on to others?** Work hard and never jeopardize your values



The "P" in P-way does not stand for player.



Keep the passageways clear,  
and save the game for the Playstation.